

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00
USIA-15 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01
AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 /115 W
-----121691 080350Z /72

R 072100Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1691
INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS CANBERRA 7742

USOECD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EALR, ECON, ELAB, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN UNEMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER

REF: CANBERRA 7126

1. DATA RELEASED OVER WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 5-6 SHOWED THAT UNEMPLOYMENT AT END OCTOBER INCREASED BY 42,123 TO 370,335, OR 6 PERCENT OF WORK FORCE OF 6.2 MILLION. UNFILLED VACANCIES ROSE BY 1,221, OR 6.1 PERCENT, IN COMPARISON WITH DROP IN SEPTEMBER.

2. MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS STREET QUICK TO CLAIM THAT IT IMPOSSIBLE DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS AS TO TREND IN OCTOBER FIGURES DUE TO "DEVASTATING EFFECTS" OF UNCLASSIFIED

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LATROBE VALLEY POWER STRIKE, WHICH HE SAID AFFECTED NOT ONLY VICTORIA BUT NEW SOUTH WALES, QUEENSLAND AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA AS WELL. STREET SAID 55,937 PERSONS REGISTERED WITH COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA AS RESULT OF STRIKE AND THAT 36,947 STILL REGISTERED AT END OF MONTH. ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD APPEAR TO LEAVE SOME 5,000 MORE UNEMPLOYED IN OCTOBER THAN IN SEPTEMBER WHO CANNOT BE

ACCOUNTED FOR BY STRIKE, STREET REPORTEDLY WAS QUICK TO STATE IN FRIDAY PRESS CONFERENCE THAT ASSUMPTION WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE BECAUSE OF DISTORTED AND CONFUSED SITUATION. STREET TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE THAT SURVEY BY VICTORIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DURING HEIGHT OF DISPUTE SHOWED THAT 2,900 JOBS HAD BEEN LOST PERMANENTLY. HE ADDED THAT CHAMBER WAS NOW PLANNING ANOTHER SURVEY.

3. COMMENT: HIGHER OCTOBER UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL VERY LIKELY TO BE A LEADING ISSUE IN FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN WITH GOVERNMENT BLAMING HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES DIRECTLY ON UNIONS AND LABOR PARTY. IT ALSO LIKELY TO USE DISRUPTION CAUSED BY POWER STRIKE TO BACK UP ITS CASE AGAINST A RISE IN THE NEXT NATIONAL WAGE HEARING WHICH BEGINS NOVEMBER 15. OPPOSITION WILL REPLY THAT UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES ARE GLARING EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO MANAGE ECONOMY.
ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: AUSTRALIAN UNEMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER
TAGS: EALR, ECON, ELAB, AS
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